THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The extant print media policy of the Government prohibits publication of Indian edition of a foreign newspapers in India. The policy is under review.

Free Movement of Journalists and Media People

4877. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of easing restrictions on the free movement of journalists and media people across<South Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the proposed move is going to be discussed during the forthcoming 13th SAARC Summit at Dhaka?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government is keen to support the process of free movement of media persons and media products across South Asia. The Second Conference of Editors and Working Journalists from SAARC countries held in New Delhi on 28-29 October, 2004 made recommendations that free movement of media professionals within SAARC member countries may be assured and that the visa regime among SAARC countries may be relaxed for accredited media professionals. The Fourth meeting of the SAARC Information Ministers held in Islamabad on 15-16 December, 2004 also recommended the member countries to facilitate the movement of accredited media persons by liberalizing the visa regimes on the basis of reciprocity.

(c) The reports of the above mentioned meetings alongwith the recommendations were to be deliberated and approved by the 13th SAARC Summit in Dhaka, which has since been postponed and no new dates have been fixed for the Summit.

New FM radio policy

4878. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are ready with a new FM policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) what are the recommendations made by TRAI and Amit Mitra panel in this regard; and